

'We've got to do something to help'

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It was chaos . . . and it was fun.

The event was a bowling party for 15 kids from the Bedford-Stuyvesant area of Brooklyn.

The boys, all from a tough ghetto area, are in Binghamton for a holiday. They were brought here by Angel Saint Nunez, himself a resident of Bedford-Stuyvesant and now a junior at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

The squeals and squeals of 15 delighted boys mingled with the thumping of gutter balls, falling pins and the boys' counselors.

Bowling was new to most of the boys. The money you spend on bowling can be spent for food or clothing.

Many of the kids will drop out of school by 12. Others will land in jail, Mr. Saint Nunez said.

"We had to get those kids out of the ghetto for a while, to show them there is something better. We have to show them that 'up-state' doesn't only mean a trip to reform school."

Angel Saint Nunez raised more than \$1,500 to bring the boys to the Binghamton area. He convinced SUNY-Binghamton officials of the value of the program and the school provided housing. He hopes to bring more boys upstate next year.

Extra week

He announced Friday that the boys will be able to extend their two-week vacation through next Sunday due to surplus funds and a low bill from the SUNY-Binghamton food services.

"Some of these kids have been cutting back on their appetites because they don't want us to spend too much money on them," Mr. Nunez said. They were scheduled to return to New York City yesterday.

With Angel looking over his shoulder, one boy lines up at the head of the bowling lane and let fly. He guided the path of the ball with body English . . . until it rolled off into the gutter. The boy screamed with delight.

The orderly chaos continued but there were quiet moments for some. One boy stood looking down the alley beyond the pins. You could almost see the scars of violence, the rat and garbage-infested neighborhood etched upon his face.

Must return

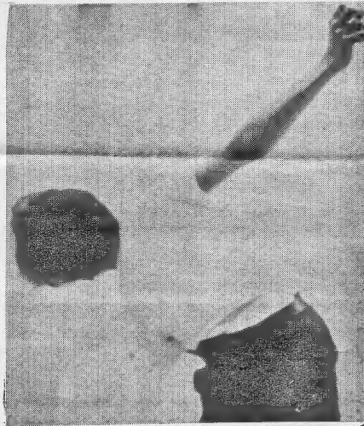
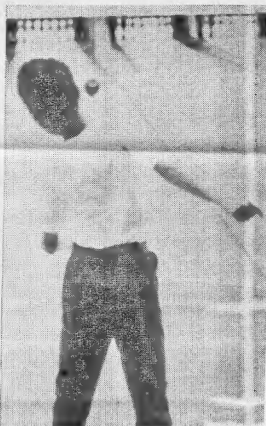
Their faces force you to remember that they must return to Bedford-Stuyvesant.

Will Angel Saint Nunez have done them a favor or a disservice by bringing them here? Will they try to escape the ghetto? Or will they go back determined to improve their neighborhood?

"A lot of these kids are talking about going back to school when they get home so they can come back here to college," Angel said.

But will all the obstacles that have shackled their fathers blind them too? When they tell their friends about picnics, and camping, and swimming pools, will a militant elder bitterly inform them that "they got all that by stealing from us." And will they believe it?

"We've got to do something to help them," Angel said.



TEXT

AND

PHOTOS

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